

Cam Gordon

City Council Member Second Ward

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Attention: If you want help translating this information in language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, call 311

Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood, 5-21-12

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours: Pratt School, June 19th, 9:30-11am

Items:

- 1) Maximum Occupancy
- 2) Vikings Stadium Coming to a Vote
- 3) Resolution on Free Speech in Plazas
- 4) Single-Sort Recycling
- 5) One Read: Spirit Car Journey to a Dakota Past
- 6) Janee Harteau Nominated to be Police Chief
- 7) New Department Heads
- 8) Bike Walk Week: June 2-10
- 9) Bike Score
- 10) Go-To Student Passes
- 11) Picturing Peace
- 12) Openings on Boards and Commissions
- 1) As you likely know, I support improving the City's Maximum Occupancy (MO) regulations. I have introduced the subject matter of an ordinance to do this, and it is currently near the bottom of the Planning Department's work plan. I consider the current ordinance to be unfair, outdated and very difficult to enforce. One problem with the current regulations, from my perspective, is that they apply only to "unrelated" persons, and that the definition of "family" is overly narrow. I know that in Minneapolis, there are numerous households that function as mutually-supportive family units for all practical purposes, but do not meet the City's definition of "family," and are therefore in violation of our MO ordinance. I also believe that the current MO regulations are not effective tools in addressing neighborhood livability concerns including parking, noise, and property upkeep and I am proud of the many successes the City has had in recent years to improve and protect livability in Southeast Minneapolis and I will continue to work hard to find fair and effective ways to do that. There are also interesting examples of regulations in other cities that might serve as models for regulations that protect neighborhoods without too narrowly and exclusively defining "family." I would like to work with all Second Ward neighborhoods, including Prospect Park, on a maximum occupancy reform that could gain broad based community support from longtime homeowners, student renters, LGBT families, and others.
- 2) The State Legislature has passed a Vikings Stadium bill and the Governor has signed it. It will come to the City Council for our approval on May 25th. I cannot support this bill because it is unfair to Minneapolis tax payers and fiscally irresponsible to the future of our City. The enormous size of the public subsidy is unacceptable to me and the long term debt of \$575 to \$850 million dollars, that Minneapolis would be responsible for paying off, is too big a burden to place on Minneapolis taxpayers. In future years, I am convinced that this deal will create problems much worse than the public ownership of the Target Center and other downtown boondoggles. Additionally, a vote in favor of this bill would also violate my oath of office and the city charter. Any stadium deal that uses Minneapolis sales and entertainment tax money should be put to the voters, as is required by our City's most fundamental legal document, the Charter Unfortunately, I think it has just barely enough votes to pass (7-6).
- 3) Council President Johnson's resolution that would severely restrict the rights of protestors on City-owned plazas has been indefinitely delayed. I consider this a good outcome.

- 4) The Council's Transportation and Public Works committee has approved our staff's recommendation that the City switch our recycling program to a single sort system. According to a study that relied on recycling pilots in various Minneapolis neighborhoods and a study of similar cities, single sort program will be easier for residents to use, significantly increase the amount of waste that is recycled (from the current 18% up to 32%) and cost the City less to administer. I am very supportive of this change, mostly because I believe we need to get as much recyclable material out of the standard waste stream as possible.
- 5) Minneapolis has selected the next One Minneapolis, One Read book: *Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past* by local author Diane Wilson. In "Spirit Car," a Minnesota Book Award Winner, Diane Wilson explores her Dakota roots and her own family's history, detailing the trauma of the Dakota War of 1862 and its aftermath. One Minneapolis, One Read will launch in fall of 2012, in collaboration with Minneapolis Public Schools and Hennepin County Library. The selection of "Spirit Car" in the same year we recognize the 150th Anniversary of the Dakota War provides an unparalleled opportunity for us all to learn more about this tragic part of our history. We welcome you to read the book and join the conversation! One Minneapolis, One Read updates appear on Facebook and at www.oneminneapolisoneread.com.
- 6) Mayor Rybak has appointed **Janee Harteau** as the next Minneapolis Police Chief. I've worked with Janee when she was Inspector for the First Precinct, and support her appointment. She would be the first female Chief in Minneapolis history.
- 7) The Council has confirmed Paul Aasen as the new City Coordinator. Mr. Aasen has a background in environmental science and has most recently worked as director of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. I am excited to have someone with such a clear environmental focus in this very important position, which oversees Sustainability, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Communications and more. The Mayor has appointed Jeremy Hanson Willis as the new Director of Community Planning and Economic Development. Mr. Hanson Willis does not have a Planning background, which is disappointing to me, but I voted to approve him on a 3-month interim basis. The Council has also approved the appointment of Grace Wachlarowicz as the City's new Assistant City Clerk and Elections Director.
- 8) Organizers of the annual Twin Cities Bike Walk Week are asking for your pledge to replace at least one car trip with biking or walking during this year's Bike Walk Week, **June 2-10**, in hopes that you'll develop a new, more active routine for getting around. Even if you already bike or walk to get around, sign up and be counted. Last year more than 10,000 people took the Bike Walk Week pledge, choosing active transportation over car travel. They discovered the benefits, starting with better health, money saved and a healthier environment. Join them this year for Bike Walk Week events. For details and a calendar of Bike Walk Week events, visit https://bikewalkweek.org.
- 9) There's a new web-based tool called Bike Score (www.walkscore.com/bike/MN/Minneapolis) that gives a composite 'grade' for cities and neighborhoods on how bikeable they are. The score is based on bike lanes, hills, biking destinations and the number of bike commuters. Minneapolis tops the list as the most bikeable large city in the US, beating out cities like Portland, Seattle and San Francisco.
- 10) Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) in partnership with Metro Transit will offer Go-To Student Passes for most MPS high school students beginning in the 2012-2013. Students at Edison, Henry, North, Roosevelt, Washburn and Wellstone will be able to ride transit buses and light rail trains Go-To Student Passes will allow high school riders access to buses and trains from 5 a.m. until 10 p.m. seven days a week for trips to and from school, as well as other destinations. The School District, Metro Transit and the Minneapolis Police Department are working collaboratively to ensure that students' riding safety is a top priority. Community informational meetings are being held throughout the spring. South and Southwest high schools will join the program in the 2013-2014 school year.
- 11) Please join the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support and the Downtown Improvement District to celebrate the work of over a dozen Minneapolis youth in a documentary photography exhibit exploring young people's reflections and hopes for peace and safety in their communities. Picturing Peace is a collaborative community engagement and photography project that explores youth violence, peace and safety, and community supports for young people. The exhibit provides an opportunity to raise awareness about youth violence and how residents can help make their communities safer for young people. This exhibit is free and open to the public and feel free to pass the attached flyer along to your networks. Please RSVP to attend the opening online at http://picturingpeace.eventbrite.com or by calling 612-673-2729.
- 12) There are openings on the Capital Long Range Improvement Commission, Civilian Police Review Authority, Family Housing Fund (McKnight), Housing Board of Appeals, Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Neighborhood Community and Engagement Committee, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Public Health Advisory Committee, Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, and Workforce Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.